

Message Text

SECRET

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54

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SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 18, 1976
(SALT TWO-914)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 1976.

SEMENOV STATEMENT, FEBRUARY 18, 1976

I

THE JOINT DOCUMENT OF DECEMBER 18, 1975 INCLUDES ARTICLE XIX
AMONG THE PROVISIONS AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE SIDES.

ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THAT ARTICLE, SPECIFIC PROVISIONS
OF THE NEW AGREEMENT NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, AS AGREED BY THE SIDES, SHALL BECOME
EFFECTIVE UPON ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT BEING WORKED
OUT FOR THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS FOR THE PERIOD

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UNTIL THE END OF 1985, UNLESS THAT AGREEMENT IS REPLACED

EARLIER BY AN AGREEMENT FURTHER LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. THE UNDERSTANDING ON THIS SCORE OCCUPIES AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THE DRAFT BEING WORKED OUT, ATTESTING TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SIDES' INTENTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EFFORTS AIMED AT FURTHER LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS AND CURBING THE RACE IN SUCH ARMS.

IN THE U.S. DELEGATION'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 1976 THE U.S. SIDE SPOKE IN FAVOR OF RECORDING THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE PROVISIONS, WHICH WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF APPROVAL OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, IN THE FORM OF A PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

THE USSR DELEGATION HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSE THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE SIGNING OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, A PROTOCOL BE SIGNED, WHICH WOULD LIST THOSE ARTICLES WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THE AFOREMENTIONED UNDERSTANDING WILL HAVE BEEN REACHED. THIS PROTOCOL WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

AS FOR SPECIFICALLY WHICH ARTICLES (PROVISIONS) WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, SUCH UNDERSTANDING COULD BE REACHED WHEN AGREEING UPON THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT OF THE DOCUMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

THE USSR DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT THE WORK ON APPROPRIATE FORMULATIONS ENSUING FROM THE ABOVE COULD BE CONTINUED IN THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP.

II

MR. AMBASSADOR,

TO ENSURE PROGRESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS UPON THE JOINT DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT, THE USSR DELEGATION AT THE FEBRUARY 3, 1976 MEETING TABLED A NEW PROPOSAL ON THE WORDING CONCERNING DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES. THE SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT THAT CORRESPONDING WORDING BE ADOPTED AS AN AGREED STATEMENT OF THE SIDES.

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THE FORMULATION TABLED BY THE USSR DELEGATION CONTAINS A CLEAR GENERALIZED DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT, WOULD BE REGARDED AS DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES. IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CLARIFICATION OF THIS CONCEPT.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE DRAFT OF THE AGREED STATEMENT ON THIS QUESTION, SUBMITTED BY THE USSR DELEGATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OBLIGATION, ALREADY AGREED UPON, NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION OF THE OTHER SIDE, CREATES THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THESE MEANS TO CARRY OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY, AND THEREBY ENSURES THE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE BY THE SIDES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

THE USSR DELEGATION PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREED STATEMENT ON DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES WOULD APPLY TO ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FULLY MEETS THE PURPOSE OF AN AGREED STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION--TO ENSURE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS MEANT BY THE CONCEPT "DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES," AND MAKES IT POSSIBLE IN THE WORKING GROUP, ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS, TO AGREE UPON AN AGREED TEXT OF ARTICLE XVI, PAR. 3, AND THE PROVISIONS PERTINENT THERETO.
JOHNSON

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